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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Argentina, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Egypt, Italy, Namibia, Romania, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand and Uruguay: draft resolution

Cooperation between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 20 September 2010,[1] which attests to the broad and substantive cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union over the past two years,

Taking note of the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and circulated in the General Assembly and the many activities undertaken by the organization in support of the United Nations,

Taking note also of the outcome of the third World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, including its declaration on securing global democratic accountability for the common good,[2] which reaffirms the commitment of national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to support the work of the United Nations and continue efforts to bridge the democracy gap in international relations,

Taking note further of the findings and recommendations of the report of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on how parliaments organize their work with the United Nations,[3]

Welcoming the annual parliamentary hearings at the United Nations as joint United Nations-Inter-Parliamentary Union events during the sessions of the General Assembly, as well as other specialized parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in cooperation with the United Nations in the context of major United Nations conferences and events,

[1] A/65/382-S/2010/490.
[2] A/65/289, annex I.
[3] Ibid., annex II.

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Taking into consideration the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union of 1996,[4] which laid the foundation for cooperation between the two organizations,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] as well as the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6] in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in all fields of the work of the United Nations, including the effective implementation of United Nations reform,

Recalling also its resolution 57/32 of 19 November 2002, in which the Inter-Parliamentary Union was invited to participate in the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer, as well as resolutions 57/47 of 21 November 2002, 59/19 of 8 November 2004, 61/6 of 20 October 2006 and 63/24 of 18 November 2008,

Welcoming the close cooperation between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Peacebuilding Commission in fostering political dialogue and building national capacities for good governance,

Welcoming also the contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in shaping the agenda and work of the new Development Cooperation Forum held by the Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the importance of the continued provision of parliamentary support to the work of the Human Rights Council,

Recognizing also the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the areas of gender equality, empowerment of women and combating violence against women, and the close and systematic cooperation between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the relevant United Nations bodies, including the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

Acknowledging the role and responsibility of national parliaments in regard to national plans and strategies, as well as in ensuring greater transparency and accountability,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to provide for a greater parliamentary contribution and enhanced support to the United Nations;

2. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to cooperate closely in various fields, in particular peace and security, economic and social development, international law, human rights and democracy and gender issues, bearing in mind the significant benefits of cooperation between the two organizations, to which the report of the Secretary-General attests;[1]

3. *Encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen further its contribution to the work of the General Assembly, including its revitalization, and in relation to the process of United Nations reform and system-wide coherence;

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[4] A/51/402, annex.

[5] See resolution 55/2.

[6] See resolution 60/1.

4. *Invites* the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to work closely with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in engaging national parliaments in the countries under consideration by the Commission in efforts to promote democratic governance, national dialogue and reconciliation;

5. *Encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to work closely with the Development Cooperation Forum and bring a robust parliamentary contribution to the Forum process and the broader development cooperation agenda, including in the context of the current Economic and Social Council reform process;

6. *Also encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue its efforts in mobilizing parliamentary support and action towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015;

7. *Further encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen its contribution to the United Nations human rights treaty bodies, including the Human Rights Council, particularly as it relates to the universal periodic review of the fulfilment of human rights obligations and commitments by Member States;

8. *Invites* the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to work closely with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in such areas as the empowerment of women, institutional gender mainstreaming, support to parliaments in promoting gender-sensitive legislation, combating violence against women and the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions;

9. *Encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to further assist in developing closer cooperation between the United Nations and parliaments at the national level, including in terms of strengthening parliamentary capacities, reinforcing the rule of law and helping to align national legislation with international commitments;

10. *Welcomes* the growing practice of including legislators as members of national delegations to major United Nations meetings and events, as appropriate, and invites Member States to continue this practice in a more regular and systematic manner;

11. *Calls* for the further development of the annual parliamentary hearings at the United Nations as a joint United Nations-Inter-Parliamentary Union event and for the circulation of the hearings summary report as a document of the General Assembly;

12. *Decides* to more systematically engage with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in organizing and integrating a parliamentary component of and contribution to major United Nations deliberative processes and the review of international commitments;

13. *Welcomes* the proposal for a regular annual exchange between the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the senior leadership of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to building greater coherence in the work of the two organizations, maximizing parliamentary support for the United Nations and helping to forge a strategic partnership between the two organizations;

14. *Decides*, in recognition of the unique role of national parliaments in support of the work of the United Nations, to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session an item entitled "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union".